

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050364

LIMDIS-HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SCANDAL ITALIAN STYLE

THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL IS RECEIVING UNPRECEDENTED MEDIA AND PUBLIC ATTENTION IN ITALY. THE GOI HAS BEEN FORCED TO TRY TO BRING THE FACTS TO LIGHT. EMBASSY ROME PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING DAMAGE ASSESSMENT:

--THE SCANDAL HAS HURT US INTERESTS MORE THAN THE CIA REVELATIONS AND IS SEEN BY MANY AS CONFIRMING WHAT COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA HAS SAID FOR YEARS.

--THE IMAGE OF MANY ITALIAN INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, PRO-AMERICAN POLITICIANS, THE MILITARY, THE PRESIDENCY AND POSSIBLY
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THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM, HAS BEEN TARNISHED.

--OUR WELCOME WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IS NOW TEPID
AND THE VALUE OF OUR ADVICE AND SUPPORT IS BEING SERI-
OUSLY QUESTIONED. (CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 3342, 3/1.)

2. RELATIVE CALM RETURNS TO BANGKOK

EMBASSY BANGKOK REPORTS THE FIVE-DAY MILITARY ALERT ENDED
FEBRUARY 29. THE SITUATION IS NOW GENERALLY CALM DESPITE
THE MURDER OF SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER BUNSANONG.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE A MILITARY OR CIVILIAN-MILITARY
MOVE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS A POSSIBILITY, WE HAVE
NO EVIDENCE THAT THE ELEMENTS ESSENTIAL FOR MOUNTING SUCH
AN ATTEMPT HAVE YET BEEN PUT TOGETHER. THE IMPACT OF THE
BUNSANONG ASSASSINATION IS NOT YET CLEAR, BUT UNQUESTION-
ABLY IT HAS FURTHER POLARIZED THE THAI POLITICAL SCENE.
(CONFIDENTIAL) BANGKOK 4663 (LIMDIS), 3/1.) INGERSOLL

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